

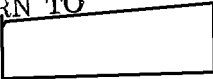
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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Viet Cong Internal Affairs:

[redacted] extensive reshuffling of Viet Cong administrative cadres.]

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[Allied military pressure, coupled with the South Vietnamese Government's political evolution and its progress in revolutionary development activities appear to be placing a strain on the local Communist infrastructure.]

[redacted] the reassignment of qualified cadres among provincial, district, and village levels in order to tighten population controls. Although captured Viet Cong documents have yet to substantiate such reports, they do cite morale problems, a lack of aggressiveness and loss of influence with the populace, and the need in some cases for experienced political cadres to serve with local guerrilla units.]

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The Political Situation in South Vietnam: The South Vietnamese Government is proceeding with its plans for local reforms, including village and hamlet level elections to begin next month. Balloting for village councils and hamlet chiefs will require considerably more preparation than was necessary for the Constituent Assembly elections last September.

On 2 April, roughly one-third of villages under government control are scheduled to elect village councils. In order to permit security forces to provide maximum protection against Viet Cong harassment, voting will continue, at intervals of one week, until mid-June.

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Communist China: Mass "rebel" organizations are being dismantled as the drive to restore order gathers momentum.

On 6 March, Peking radio put its stamp of approval on the dissolution of city-wide "revolutionary" organizations in Tsingtao, Shantung. Tsingtao's governing revolutionary committee had directed on 2 March that the headquarters of rebel organizations be disbanded and that "tripartite alliances" of rebels, army elements, and party cadres be formed within work units.

In its announcement, Peking acknowledged that disorder had resulted when workers within a unit belonged to different--and often antagonistic--revolutionary organizations. The statement also urged building alliances "from bottom to top" according to trades, fields, and areas. Peking radio said that such alliances had already been formed in Shanghai and Kweichow.

The Red Guards also appear to be in a shakedown and consolidation phase. A congress of all Red Guard units in Peking colleges and universities was organized on 22 February and is being hailed as marking the formation of a new "great alliance." A broadcast on 4 March reported that the step was being endorsed by Red Guards in many other major cities.

A number of responsible party cadres previously under attack are seemingly being rehabilitated in line with the current policy of conciliation and welcoming back repentant party officials. According to wall posters seen in Peking on 6 March, Tang Ping-chu--the ousted chief editor of People's Daily--has been allowed to return to the paper. The posters stated that the Central Committee Cultural Revolution Group leaders exonerated Wu Te, the Peking second secretary, along with Tang.

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NOTE

USSR: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the first of the Kresta-class guided missile frigates. [REDACTED] the ship carries antiship surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, a helicopter hangar, and antisubmarine weapons. The Kresta probably has an escort role and improved antisubmarine capabilities. This is the first Soviet combatant ship built since 1964 to carry surface-to-surface missiles and the first to carry an assigned helicopter. [REDACTED]

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